

Appln. No. 10/737,313

Attorney Docket No. 8627-454

III. Remarks

Claims 1-26 stand rejected. Claims 1, 10, 19, and 25 are being amended, and claims 23, 24, and 26 are being cancelled. Accordingly, after entering this amendment, claims 1-22 and 25 remain pending.

Specifically, claims 1, 10, and 19, as amended, now recite a valve body with a first planar dimension through the center of the valve body and a second planar dimension through the center of the valve body that is less than the first planar dimension when the valve body is unstressed before being mounted in a passage of a housing. The first planar dimension is perpendicular to a slit that opens in a planar face of the valve body. When mounted in the passage, the valve body has a generally circular shape. Claims 1 and 10 further require a first slit and a second slit and open in a respective planar face, and claim 19 requires an internal ring positioned within the valve body between the a planar face and the intersection between an opening extending internally from the planar face and the slit plane that extends internally from an opposing planar face.

Additionally, paragraph [0001] is being amended to update the status of the grandparent application, and paragraphs [0015], [0019], [0027], [0032], [0045], [0051], [0057], [0061], and [0068] of the Specification are being amended for clarity. No new matter is being added.

Figure 2 is being amended to identify the bracketed components by the reference numeral 10.

Reconsideration and re-examination of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is herein respectfully requested.

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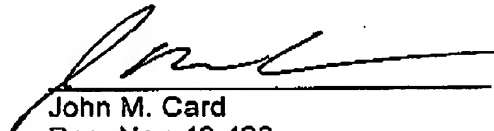
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Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims (claims 1-22 and 25) are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted by,

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